

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01166 262250Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 EB-08 DOTE-00
/085 W

-----000108 262306Z /72

P 261517Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1049
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
DEA MIAMI FLA
COMMANDANT COGARD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1166

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BF, US
SUBJ: BAHAMIAN DRUG SMUGGLING INTERDICTION CAPABILITY AND
INCREASED VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS

REF: (A) NASSAU 1122 (B) NASSAU 0941

1. NLO WAS CONTACTED EVENING OF 22 MAY 78 BY GCOB
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (CRIME), MR. PAUL
THOMPSON, WHO STATED THAT HE WANTED TO "FEEL NLO OUT"
ABOUT POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION GCOB MIGHT UNDERTAKE TO
COMBAT INCREASE IN VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS ON OUT ISLANDS
WITH DRUG SMUGGLERS.

2. MR. THOMPSON STATED THAT THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN
ANOTHER SHOOTING INCIDENT, THIS TIME IN THE VICINITY OF
WILLIAMS ISLAND (A SMALL ISLAND ON THE WEST SIDE OF
ANDROS FREQUENTLY USED FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY), AND THAT
ONE BAHAMIAN MAN WAS IN HOSPITAL ON THE CRITICAL LIST.
MR. THOMPSON SAID THAT WHEN THE POLICE AIRCRAFT (AN
UNARMED BAHAMASAIR AERO COMMANDER CHARTER AIRCRAFT WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01166 262250Z

THE WORD POLICE ON ITS SIDE) WENT TO INVESTIGATE, THE
PLANE WAS ALSO FIRED UPON AND DRIVEN OFF BY GUNFIRE.

3. IT WAS MR. THOMPSON'S OPINION THAT ONLY MILITARY-
TYPE BOATS OR SHIPS COULD ENTER THE AREA AND SUCCESSFULLY
DEAL WITH ARMED DRUG SMUGGLERS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BAHAMIAN
POLICE BOATS HAVE BEEN/ARE BEING REFURBISHED FOR THE DEFENSE

FORCE (BDF) AND ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR POLICE USE. THUS, GCOB HAS NO REACTION CAPABILITY TO THESE INCIDENTS UNTIL THE BDF BECOMES OPERATIONAL SOMETIME AFTER OCTOBER.

4. MR. THOMPSON WONDERED AS TO WHAT ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE FOR USCG/DEA ACTION IN SUCH CASES AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT DEA MIGHT STILL BE INTERESTED IN BLOWING HOLES IN SOME OF THESE ABANDONED AIR STRIPS ON REMOTE ISLANDS THAT HAVE NO LEGAL UTILITY.

5. MR. THOMPSON FURTHER STATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, IT WAS TIME FOR THE GCOB TO INITIATE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH USG TO SEEK ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THE INCREASE IN DRUG SMUGGLING THROUGH THE BAHAMAS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE IN SHOOTING CONFRONTATIONS WHICH GCOB FORCES WERE ILL EQUIPPED TO HANDLE. HE SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE HIS SUPERIORS TO REQUEST SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

6. NLO CONCURRED WITH MR. THOMPSON THAT SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE AND INDICATED THAT HE SHARED MR. THOMPSON'S CONCERNS. NLO AGREED THAT THIS WAS A COMPLICATED PROBLEM BUT STRESSED THAT IT COULD BE HANDLED ONLY AT THE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT LEVEL. HE DID AGREE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE HIS SUPERIORS IN THE EMBASSY AWARE OF MR. THOMPSON'S CONCERNS AND INTENDED ACTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01166 262250Z

7. NLO ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOME ACTION BE INITIATED TO RESTORE TO THE SERVICE OF THE MARINE POLICE, TEMPORARILY, ONE OR TWO OF THE REFURBISHED PATROL BOATS TO PROVIDE SOME GCOB REACTION CAPABILITY FROM NOW UNTIL THE BDF BECOMES OPERATIONAL.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE AGREE THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS AND GROWING PROBLEM AS DO OTHER BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN (I.E. CABINET CHIEF RODNEY BAIN AND MIN EX AFF PERM SEC ORIS RUSSELL). AT THE SAME TIME WE DO NOT WISH OURSELVES TO PUSH TOO HARD GIVEN THE SENSITIVITIES OF MORE SENIOR GOVERNMENT MEMBERS ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE AND GIVEN WHAT WE SUSPECT ARE OUR OWN LIMITED CAPABILITIES OF BEING OF ASSISTANCE. THUS WHILE WE INTEND TO WAIT FOR THE GCOB TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE WE NEVERTHELESS THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT THIS POINT FOR DEPARTMENT, DEA, CUSTOMS, ET AL TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO OFFER IF WE ARE ONE DAY APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE.
SCHWARTZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMUGGLING, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NASSAU01166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-0849
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780514/aaaaalqf.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32d9b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NASSAU 1122, 78 NASSAU 941
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2550580
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAHAMIAN DRUG SMUGGLING INTERDICTION CAPABILITY AND INCREASED VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS
TAGS: SNAR, BF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32d9b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014